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# The Pipeline



## FRYSCs Help Kids and Families Get Ready For School

*By Shannon Thomas, CFC Communications*

Sabina Massey, Youth Services Center Director at Bryan Station High School in Fayette County, panted as she packed in boxes of food for parents of school kids during a "Freshman Festival," one of many similar activities held at Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSCs) across the state.

"Have the kids eaten?" she asked. "Are the parents ready to eat yet?" While readying meals for distribution, Massey registered guests, answered questions from parents and kids and distributed pamphlets on FRYSCs and the Kentucky Children's Insurance Program. She could have used 10 arms.

"We're here today to tell freshmen and their parents what our expectations are for the school year – as far as success, absenteeism, and progress," she said. "We can also provide resources to those who need it."

Along with the pamphlets, Massey had added folders containing information on holiday assistance, school supplies and clothing assistance. If someone has one of these needs or another special need for a child, "all they have to do is fill out a little paperwork with me, and I can start the process for finding resources," she said.

Some youths at the festival said they thought the program was beneficial, though one added it would help to have

more information "about how we can protect ourselves from bullies."

The "Freshman Festival" at Bryan Station is only one example of the activities FRYSCs have planned throughout Kentucky to better prepare children for school this fall. Lee Ann Gabbard, a Family Resource and Youth Service Center program manager in Fayette County, said readiness fairs are an essential part of getting students and families prepared for the school year.

Gabbard said it helps to give families a chance to meet with school staff before school starts. "Families have often had negative experiences with school during their own childhood, and even the friendliest schools can be intimidating," she said. "Back-to-school fairs . . . make the families feel like a part of the school."

The readiness events are also a way for families to communicate any needs their children have. While some children may only be in need of a few school supplies, some have needs extend that much further – like dental and vision problems, or problems that require counseling.

Gabbard said that often FRYSCs have booths set up to allow students to receive on-site screenings for vision, dental, scoliosis, and hearing – or they can assist with making appointments for the child. Centers in Fayette County help families obtain free dental services through local dentists or the University of Kentucky's dental clinic and free eye examinations and glasses through the Kentucky Optometric Association. In many cases, required immunizations are even administered at the fairs, Gabbard said.

Although FRYSCs are not required to conduct back-to-school fairs, most of them offer or assist with the events. For information on what your county may be doing, contact your local Family Resource or Youth Services Center.

## Complete Information Is Required to Process Travel Vouchers

As of July 1, the Travel Reimbursement Section began full production of the MARS Travel Payment System. This new system allows the Cabinet to track travel information for budgetary purposes.

On July 25, a detailed memo was sent to all staff concerning changes in the information required on each travel voucher to avoid delays in processing. Any employee who did not receive this memo or has questions is encouraged to contact the Travel Reimbursement Section for information. Please direct inquiries to Velda Imel at 564-7718 or via email at [velda.imel@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:velda.imel@mail.state.ky.us)

## Retirement Reception

Ronnie Dunn, CFC Division of Personnel, will be retiring Aug. 31. There will be a retirement reception for Ronnie on Aug. 27 from 2 – 4 p.m. in the CHR Building cafeteria. For more information or to make a contribution, please contact Rose Hooks at 564-3970 in CHS or Carmen Maxson at 564-7770 in CFC.

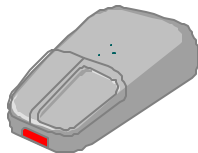
## Web Site Offers Guidance in Emergency Situations

Emergency procedures for state office buildings have now been posted online for quick and easy reference. In the event of a fire, bomb threat, medical emergency or weather emergency, employees can look to the information on following web site for direction:

<http://emergency.state.ky.us>

The Web site offers instructions to place a shortcut on your computer desktop for instant access.

Employees should review these guidelines, designed specifically for each building, to be prepared for special emergencies.



## Don't Let the Lights Go Out in Kentucky

Every week in this space, Pipeline will offer a tip on an easy, painless way to save energy at work. We welcome any and all suggestions. If you know of a way each of us can cut down on the energy we use at work, please send a description to [patricia.boler@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:patricia.boler@mail.state.ky.us)

## Let the Lights go out in Kentucky: when you're not using them, that is...

By Shannon Thomas, CFC Communications

Here are a couple of suggestions from employees who are concerned about energy efficiency in the office:

Many of us have overhead lights or lights on our desk that we forget to shut off when we are not using them. We could save the Cabinet money by remembering to turn off any extra lights when we leave for intervals of 15 minutes or more. Same goes for our computer monitors!

Some of us could consider working with one or two less bulbs above our work spaces. If you need the added light, keep it... if not, cutting the watts in half would save us money!

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has. -Margaret Meade*

## Sick Leave Needs

Eleanor Jordan, Executive Director of the Office of the Ombudsman, is in need of sick leave. She will be off work for six weeks recovering from surgery. To donate leave, contact Kay Hudson at 564-5497.



## Retirement Dos and Don'ts

Look to Pipeline for the next several weeks for information and tips on returning to work after retirement. *This information is from Kentucky Retirement Systems.*

**Do** – After being retired from work at least one calendar month, you may return to work in a **different job** with an agency participating in the same retirement system from which you are drawing a benefit, including the agency you retired from. You will continue to receive your pension and contribute to a second account from your new position.

**Don't** – If you are under normal retirement age, you should not retire and return to employment with the same employer in the **same position**, or one with the same principle duties, for a period of six months. If you do, your pension will be stopped during your re-employment for a period not to exceed six months from your initial retirement date.

## Quality Central Career Fair

Shopping for a new job?

Retirement incentives have resulted in creating outstanding promotional opportunities for employees. On Wednesday, Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>, representatives from the Division of Personnel will be available to discuss career opportunities within our Cabinet. These representatives will also provide one-on-one counseling to CFC employees and provide employees with direct assistance in the application process. The Career Fair will be conducted on the 4th floor in front of the Secretary's Office.

